GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2048
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2006
LAYING OF BILASPUR-MANDLA RAILWAY LINE
Mohale Shri Punnulal

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for laying Bilaspuir-Mandla railway line was conducted by the Railways;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Railways on the said project?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) to (c): A survey was completed during 2003-04 exploring two alternative ways of connecting Bilaspur to Jabalpur â€" one, by constructing a direct line between Bilaspur and Jabalpur via Mandla avoiding Nainpur and the other, by constructing a new line from Bilaspur up to Mandla Fort only and completing the gauge conversion of Mandla Fort-Nainpur section. As per the survey report, the cost of the first option was assessed as Rs. 1284.11 crore, while the second option as Rs. 736.96 crore, with a negative rate of return (ROR) in both the cases.

In view of non-remunerative nature of the project, heavy throw-forward of ongoing projects and acute constraint of resources, it has not been considered feasible to take up construction of Bilaspur-Mandla-Jabalpur new line wholly or partly for the present.